

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

A method for automatic topology provisioning of an optical network by a network management system, comprising:

automatically mapping a topology of network elements of the network based on network connection information, the network connection information describing interconnections of the network elements;

verifying that the network elements complete a ring formation;

obtaining protection information specifying a protection mechanism to be implemented on the network; and

automatically provisioning at least one of time-division multiplexing group (TDMG) and facility fault protection (FFP) depending upon the protection mechanism to be implemented on the network.

Claim 2. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 1, wherein the protection mechanism is selected from the group consisting of bi-directional line switched ring (BLSR) protection mechanism, unidirectional path switched ring (UPSR) protection mechanism, 1:1 protection mechanism and 1+1 linear protection mechanism.

Claim 3. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 2, wherein the protection mechanism is UPSR and the provisioning comprises TDMG provisioning.

Claim 4. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 2, wherein the protection mechanism is at least one of 1+1 linear protection and 1:1 linear protection, wherein the provisioning comprises FFP provisioning.

Claim 5. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 2, wherein the protection mechanism is BLSR and the provisioning comprises TDMG and FFP provisioning.

Claim 6. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 5, wherein the TDMG provisioning includes determining and provisioning a ring map for each network element of the network.

Claim 7. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 6, wherein each network element includes at least a primary slot and optionally a secondary slot, wherein the ring map for

each network element is determined by traversing the network elements protected by the BLSR protection mechanism from and in the direction of the primary slot.

Claim 8. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 6, wherein the ring map is stored by each network element.

Claim 9. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 6, wherein the TDMG provisioning includes assigning an identification to each node to facilitate in determining the ring map for each network element.

Claim 10. (Original)

The method for automatic topology provisioning of claim 2, wherein the protection mechanism is one of BLSR and UPSR and wherein the provisioning includes TDMG provisioning, the TDMG provisioning includes bandwidth provisioning to allow a plurality of bandwidth portions, each bandwidth portion being provisioned with a different protection mechanism.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

A system for automatic topology provisioning of an optical network by a network management system, comprising a processor configured to:

automatically map a topology of network elements of the network based on network connection information, the network connection information describing interconnections of the network elements;-

verify that the network elements complete a ring formation,

obtain protection information that specifies ~~specify~~ a protection mechanism to be implemented in the network; and

automatically provision at least one of time-division multiplexing group (TDMG) and facility fault protection (FFP) depending upon the protection mechanism to be implemented on the network.

Claim 12. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 11, wherein the protection mechanism is selected from the group consisting of bi-directional line switched ring (BLSR) protection mechanism, unidirectional path switched ring (UPSR) protection mechanism, 1:1 protection mechanism and 1+1 linear protection mechanism.

Claim 13. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 12, wherein when the protection mechanism is UPSR, the processor performs TDMG provisioning.

Claim 14. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 12, wherein when the protection mechanism is at least one of 1+1 linear protection and 1:1 linear protection, the processor performs FFP provisioning.

Claim 15. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 12, wherein when the protection mechanism is BLSR, the processor performs TDMG and FFP provisioning.

Claim 16. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 15, wherein when the processor performs TDMG provisioning, the processor determines and provisions a ring map for each network element of the network.

Claim 17. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 16, wherein each network element includes at least a primary slot and optionally a secondary slot, wherein the processor determines the ring map for each network element by traversing the network elements protected by the BLSR protection mechanism from and in the direction of the primary slot.

Claim 18. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 16, wherein the ring map is stored by each network element.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 16, wherein the processor performs TDMG provisioning by assigning an identification to each node to facilitate in determining the ring map for each network element.

Claim 20. (Original)

The system for automatic topology provisioning of claim 12, wherein when the protection mechanism is one of BLSR and UPSR, the processor performs TDMG provisioning, including bandwidth positioning to allow a plurality of bandwidth portions, each bandwidth portion being provisioned with a different protection mechanism.